



Steven K. Young, Director

Former Caregivers Plead Guilty to Theft-Related Charges

DES MOINES, IOWA (August 15, 2005) – Two former certified nursing assistants (CNAs) were sentenced July 22, 2005, in Polk County District Court for crimes associated with the theft of a nursing facility resident's debit card. Rene Sue Peterson, 30, of Des Moines and Kathryn Rose Loutsch, 26, of Carlisle respectively pleaded guilty to three counts of unauthorized use of a credit card and one count of fifth degree theft in connection with an incident that occurred last March while the individuals were employed as CNAs at the Carlisle Care Center in Carlisle. According to investigators with the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals' (DIA) Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Peterson took a resident's debit card and used it to make purchases totaling \$361.11 for herself and Loutsch.

Peterson was given a deferred sentence and placed on informal probation for 18 months. Additionally, she was ordered to pay restitution and court costs, successfully complete the SAVE (Stop Abuse of the Vulnerable and Elderly) Program, and perform 75 hours of community service. Peterson claimed she found the debit card on the ground outside the nursing facility but rather than return it to the resident, she used the card to make unauthorized purchases.

Loutsch, who admitted she knew Peterson was making unauthorized purchases with the resident's debit card but still accepted some of the items, was placed on 12 months probation and given a 30-day suspended sentence. In addition, Loutsch was ordered to pay court and law enforcement costs, and successfully complete the elder abuse awareness class. Peterson and Loutsch are jointly and severally liable for repayment of the unauthorized purchases, as restitution, to the financial institution that had issued the debit card to the resident.

The Carlisle Police Department assisted DIA in the investigation of the theft, which was prosecuted by the Polk County Attorney's Office.

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Peterson-Loutsch